

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for paying for international business reply mail that is processed by a second carrier located in a second country and a first carrier located in a first country, comprising the steps of:

placing a first number on the business reply mail that indicates a batch number of the business reply mail;

placing a second number on the business reply mail that indicates a maximum number of authorized business reply mail that will be debited to the sender's meter;

charging a sender's meter located in the first country for postage for an authorized maximum number of business reply mail that is due to the second carrier for processing the business reply mail that is deposited by a recipient with the second carrier and scanned by the second carrier;

charging a sender's meter located in the first country for postage that is due to the first carrier for business reply mail that is received from the second carrier scanned by the first carrier and delivered to a party located in the first country;

paying the first carrier the amount charged to the sender's meter for the first carrier's postage and

paying the second carrier the amount charged to the sender's meter for the second carrier postage.

2. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the party is the sender.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:

printing on the business reply mail an indication of the amount of postage charged to the sender's meter for the first carrier's postage, and

printing on the business reply mail an indication of the amount of postage charged to the sender's meter for the second carrier's postage.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:

delivering an item containing the international business reply mail from a sender located in the first country to a recipient located in the second country.
8. (Original) The method claimed in claim 7, further including the step of:

charging the sender's meter for delivering the item.
9. (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 8, further including the steps of:

printing on the item an indication of the amount of postage charged to the sender's meter for the first carrier's postage; and

printing on the business item an indication of the amount of postage charged to the sender's meter for the second carrier postage.
10. (Original) The method claimed in claim 7, further including the step of:

paying the first carrier the amount charged to the sender's meter for delivering the item; and

paying the second carrier the amount charged to the sender's meter for delivering the item.

11. (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 7, further including the step of:

indicating on the item an amount of business reply mail that may be returned to the sender.

12. (Original) The method claimed in claim 11, further including the step of:

determining an expected business reply response factor for the international business reply mailing.

13. (Original) The method claimed in claim 12, further including the step of:

determining a cost of mailing the expected business reply responses.

14. (Original) The method claimed in claim 13, further including the step of:

charging the sender's meter for the cost of mailing the expected business reply responses.

15. (Original) The method claimed in claim 14, further including the step of:

counting the number of international business reply mail processed by the first and second carriers.

16. (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 15, further including the step of:

determining a total amount of postage due the first and second carrier for processing the counted international business reply mail.

17. (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 7, further including the step of:

indicating on the international business reply mail an expiration date that the sender's meter will be charged for processing specific batches of international business reply mail.

18. (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the sender's meter is a postage meter.

19. (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the steps of:

printing a first country indicia on the business reply mail to indicate the amount of postage due to the first carrier; and

printing second country indicia on the business reply mail to indicate the amount of postage due to the second carrier.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)